

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

April 18, 2013

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MoDOT Tells Motorists, 'Don't Zone Out!'

by Holly Dentner

Every spring, MoDOT starts preparing for a busy summer season of construction and maintenance work across the state.

Part of that preparation includes a coordinated, comprehensive approach to keep motorists and workers safe in work zones. That's why the department is observing National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19.

"Each year we observe Work Zone Awareness Week to remind motorists to slow down, eliminate distractions, and pay attention in work zones," said Director Dave Nichols. "This year we repeat this message with heavy hearts, after losing yet another member of the MoDOT team last year."

On September 21, 2012, Motorist Assist Operator Clifton Scott had just established traffic control following a collision on eastbound I-70 in Independence. He was struck and killed by a vehicle passing through the area.

"Clifton is one of 16 MoDOT workers who died in the line of duty since 2000," said Nichols. "While we thoroughly train our team to take safety measures when working near traffic, we need every driver to watch out for highway workers and do their part to make sure everyone can return home safe."

When possible, MoDOT places signs, barricades and other forms of traffic control far in advance of what most people consider a "typical" work zone. But that might not always be the case, particularly when work zones are established in an emergency situation or a moving operation.

"This year, we really want to emphasize that not all work zones look alike," said Beth Wright, MoDOT State Maintenance Engineer. "We want to remind motorists that work zones can be moving operations, such as mowing or roadway striping. They can also be short term, temporary lane closures to make quick repairs or remove debris."

Last year, MoDOT vehicles were added to the "Move Over" law, which protects law enforcement and emergency response vehicles parked on the side of the road.

"We ask that motorists follow this law and move over or slow down when they see MoDOT vehicles with amber and white lights flashing," said Wright.

As part of Work Zone Awareness Week 2013, MoDOT is distributing a new public service announcement that features Clifton Scott. Clifton was interviewed several years ago by a Kansas City television station, urging motorists to be cautious as they approach work zones. In the video, he speaks of his desire to safely return home to his family every night. That video and additional information about work zones can be found on the website - [work zones](#)

Also, a special video message to employees can be found at - [work zone message](#) (this link works for active employees only).



Two Challenges Combine for Twice the Innovation

by Jim Dickson

This year's Innovations Showcase marked the first time two separate employee challenges have shared the same exhibit hall. Exhibitors for the sixth year of the Tool and Equipment Challenge were joined by exhibitors from the first year of the ProMo Challenge April 10 at the Springfield Expo Center. There were a total of 56 innovations highlighting new or modified tools and pieces of equipment along with innovative products, processes and projects. The innovations looked different, but they all shared the same goal, getting work done better, faster, cheaper and safer.

Both challenges were launched this fall with district and division competitions. Local challenge winners were then evaluated by statewide teams to choose the best for the showcase.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Joe Carmichael told the awards banquet attendees MoDOT really understands innovation. "Other organizations have idea systems," said Carmichael "but MoDOT employees actually put those ideas into practice."



Director Dave Nichols echoed Carmichael's praise. "This is always one of my favorite events, said Nichols. "I love seeing just how creative MoDOT employees are." Nichols challenged innovators to take personal ownership of their innovations and work with their counterparts to push them throughout the organization.

Here are the statewide winners from both challenges:

Tool and Equipment Best of Show

- ACS Herbicide Sprayer (Central District)
- PrOMo Best of Show
- Electronic Spec Book (Design Division)

Tool and Equipment Statewide Winners

- Tractor Adaptor (Kansas City District)
- Core Holder Vice (St. Louis District)
- Chloride Injection System (Southwest District)

PrOMo Statewide Winners

- Limb Saw (Central District)
- Web-Based Ordering System (Southwest District)
- Shared 4-Lane, Highway 5, Camden County Project (Central District)



Ken Birke and Keith Pehle of the St. Louis District explain the arrow board tilt mechanism to Assistant State Bridge Engineer Scott Stotlemeyer. Photos by Shaun Schmitz.

Other showcase participants were:

- 3-D Based Roadway Design
- Aerial Plan Sheet Process
- Arrow Board Tilt Mechanism
- Band Expander
- Bridge Wash Trailer
- Bullet Nose
- Centerline Taper
- Chemical Wick Bar
- CMP Concrete Float
- CMS Request Form
- Concrete Slab Puller
- CSC Information Guide
- Edge Rut Box
- Environmental Survey Process
- Epoxy Transition to Manholes
- Expansion Joint Tool
- Gabion Basket Carrier
- Geopak Coordinate Geometry
- Guardrail Delineation Improvements
- Hearing Protection Training
- Inspection/Testing Responsibilities Guide
- Interactive Map
- LED Traffic Signal Replacements
- Loader Bucket Screen
- Median Crossover Design
- Non-Stick Spray Prep/Cleaning Method
- Object Marker Hinge
- Offset Object Marker
- Pavement Plan
- Positive Placement GeoMelt Applicator
- Project Clean Out
- Quality Assurance Plans Review Process
- Red Signal Ahead LED Panel
- Retaining Wall Inventory and Inspection
- SharePoint Equipment Reservation Tool
- Shotcrete
- Sign Height Measuring Tool
- Sign Post Setter Tool
- Signing Plans and Cross Sections Revisions
- Swing Chute
- Tab Buster
- Tab Remover
- Tow Plow Calibration
- Traffic Pacing
- Tripod Telespar Base Remover
- Truck Bed Wedge
- Turning Movement Analysis Program
- Web-Based Microfilm System

More information on the 2013 Innovations Showcase is available at [Showcase](#). Be sure to watch the video recap (*this link works for active employees only*). All photos can be viewed on [flickr](#).

Value Statements -- Be Bold

by Dave Nichols

The boldness of our employees was on display at the Innovations Showcase. Hundreds of you participated in our two challenges to share the best innovations from all over our organization. Thank you to everyone who was bold enough to send in a submission.

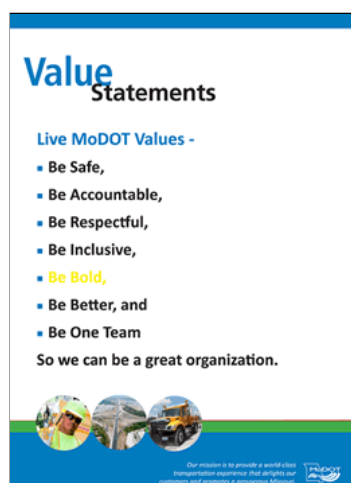
It takes boldness to find new ways to do our work. We all have to be flexible and support changes that help us all get better. Now that the Innovations Showcase winners have been announced, we need your help to get as many of them as possible implemented in your areas.

It takes boldness to take a risk that might get things done better, faster and cheaper. What is it that you've always thought might make a real difference, but were afraid you might fail? We also need to be looking at the private sector to integrate advanced technologies and processes into our work.

I challenge each of you to push yourself and your co-workers to not be satisfied with average results -- by being bold.

Thanks for all you do and be SAFE out there!

A special video message to employees can be found on the website - [Be Bold](#) (*this link works for active employees only*)



Preventative Services Benefits

It Only Takes a Little Time

by Jeff Padgett

We all know to keep our vehicles in good working condition we need to change the oil and do other preventative maintenance. If we don't, we run the risk of potential problems that can lead to inconvenience and big expenses. It's the same for our health. Just like your vehicle, a little preventative medicine goes a long way to keep you running your best.

Unfortunately, many of us do not take advantage of one of the most important benefits we have, preventive services, or what we have traditionally called the Wellness Program. Beginning in January last year, the annual cap on the preventative services benefit was removed. This means that nearly all services billed as preventative are now covered at 100 percent. So there is no out-of-pocket cost to employees and no annual limits.



Some of you have participated in health or wellness fairs. The tests and screenings provided at these fairs are a good way to identify potential issues. However, these are for the most part general and should not be the only preventative services you receive in a year. There is no substitute for discussing your personal and family history with a trained physician and having an examination and testing tailored to your individual needs.

Men are historically reluctant to have any type of physical examination. Some even put off medically necessary care far too long. It is surprising men will take time off work to golf, hunt, fish, or any number of leisure activities, but are reluctant to take a small amount of time to receive an annual physical.

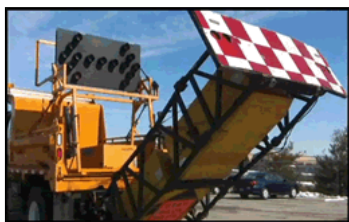
Typically, women are more likely than men to seek preventive services. However, our female employees also are not having physicals on a regular basis. Women need to make sure they receive comprehensive services during their annual physicals, such as cholesterol checks and other testing.

Whether you are a man or a woman, this is your chance to access free screenings, with no out-of-pocket cost to you, which could improve your quality of life and help you live longer.

If you haven't had a physical examination for some time, please schedule one soon. This is a great employee benefit that we all should be using. Those who love you and depend on you for emotional and financial support will greatly appreciate you taking the time to take care for yourself.

If you need help finding a physician, contact a worklife center representative.

What's Happening



New Video

The newest operational safety video has been created and posted on the intranet, TMA Safety Points. This latest video was developed as a tool for maintenance supervisors to aid in morning safety discussions. Although the operations videos are geared towards maintenance, all employees are urged to watch.

This particular video focuses on TMA safety and shows MoDOT crews on a busy I-70 getting the job done in heavy traffic conditions.

[TMA Safety Points](#) (this link works for active employees only).



Largest Jackpot Yet!

March's Safety Jackpot hit the Northwest District in a big way. Senior Maintenance Worker Aaron Cartee of King City (left) drew the largest winning tickets yet, netting him \$1,375 in cold hard cash!

Newest Winner

Central District's Maintenance Crew Leader Larry Koenig of Fayette (right) won April's Safety Jackpot. Larry drew a whopping \$1,000.00 in the grab bag drawing.



Win a MoDOT Centennial T Shirt!

Visit our centennial quiz on the MoDOT Sharepoint site for your chance to win. Enter online here: [Quiz](#) (this link works for active employees only) or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Fri., April 26.

Question:

Some of the earliest State Highway Department employees were paid in hay. Mules powered most road-building equipment in the department's first decades. For this reason, to this day maintenance buildings are known to many as:

- Salt domes
- Hee Haws
- Barns
- Eeyores



Traffic & Safety Conference

The 64th Annual Traffic & Safety Conference is being held in Columbia, May 14 - 16. The planning team has developed an excellent agenda with transportation experts from across the country speaking about innovations in traffic safety and operations. Register Now - [Conference](#)



Benefit Statement

Your 2013 Annual Benefit Statement was mailed to your home last week. The information contained in the statement is as of February 28, 2013.

Please review the statement carefully. Each benefit administrator provided information for your statement. While we all strive for accuracy, it is possible that some portion of your records may contain an error. If you find an error in the statement, report it to the appropriate benefit provider (see contact information on the back page of the statement). Pam Henry, MPERS

April Retirements

Deanna McClurg - NW - 29 years
John Miller - NW - 21 years
James Lennox - NE - 29 years
Deborah Przybylski - NE - 25 years
Brent Cassidy - NE - 23 years
Larry Leathers - NE - 22 years
Melbra Taylor - KC - 28 years
Andrea Milligan - KC - 24 years
Jimmie Osgood - KC - 6 years
Thomas Rackers - CD - 30 years

Barbara Inman - CD - 24 years
David Rein - SL - 36 years
Robert Lauer - SL - 34 years
Clinton Stoutt - SL - 30 years
Stephen Clark - SL - 20 years
Lawrence Layton - SL - 9 years
Allen Bley - SW - 35 years
Gregory Donoho - SW - 26 years
Debra Lioubinski - SW - 16 years
Earl Duke - SE - 14 years

Daniel Davis - CO - 9 years
Beckwith Crocker - CO - 20 years
Joseph Schroer - CO - 30 years
David Amos - CO - 24 years
Donald Hillis - CO - 29 years
Pamella Schmutzler - CO - 29 years
Debra Stieffermann - CO - 12 years
Susan Feltrop - CO - 33 years
Terry Baker - CO - 9 years

In Memorium

Alton Thomas (active employee)
SL District - March 23
Wilburn Clark
former D10 - March 13
Donald Hiatte
CO - March 21

Tilmon Hodges
former D6 - March 28
Donald Wiseman
former D3 - March 31

Carl Barker
former D10 - April 6
Roy Fletcher
former D10 - April 9

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April Health and Safety Tips Work Zone Awareness Week

Motorist will again experience a good deal of road and bridge construction on Missouri highways this year. Please take heed of the following tips when working and traveling through work zones.

Work Zone Driving Tips

During National Work Zone Awareness Week, MoDOT employees are encouraged to make others aware of the dangers road workers face daily. Remind them of the needless injuries and fatalities and how their conscious efforts can help. When driving through work zones, the following tips can help keep everyone safe.

- Plan your trip before you begin driving. Use MoDOT's traveler information map and construction maps.
- Slow down as you approach a work zone and turn down your radio.
- Obey all posted work zone speed limits.
- Merge into the proper lane as soon as possible.
- Watch for workers.
- Stay alert and read all signs in the work area.
- Have patience when traveling through a work zone.
- Avoid talking on cell phones and never text and drive.

Work Zone Safety

There are several things MoDOT employees need to remember to stay safe when working in work zones:

- Wear MoDOT-approved, high-visibility safety apparel and PPE while working in work zones. Replace the apparel when it becomes ineffective.
- Don't take matters into your own hands when dealing with traffic offenders.
- Expect the unexpected; don't assume drivers can see you.
- Work within the work zone, and stay alert.
- Don't have your back to traffic. If you must have your back to traffic, use a spotter.
- Use buffer spaces when possible.
- Make sure work zone devices and signs are in good working order and placed appropriately.
- Perform work zone inspections.



As a MoDOT employee and a member of the motoring public, you can make a difference in keeping everyone safe in work zones. Follow the above tips to keep yourself and all workers on the road safe.

Celebrate National Library Week - Learn What The MoDOT Library Can Do For You

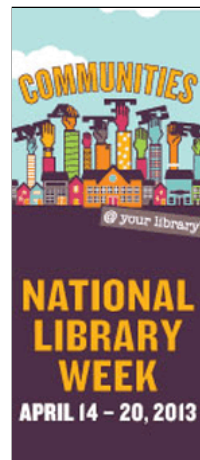
By Bill Stone and Renée McHenry

Since 2006, MoDOT has employed a professional librarian who provides employees with library services such as research assistance and access to resources. Our current librarian, Renée McHenry, is part of the Construction & Materials Research group. She joined MoDOT last October after the previous librarian A.J. Million went back to graduate school in August.

National Library Week, April 14-20, is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association. It is celebrated by libraries across the country each April to highlight the value of libraries and librarians. This year's theme is Communities Matter.

Library information sessions were held in Jefferson City, and one opportunity is still available:
Friday April 19, 10 -11am
Central Office Conference Room 103

The session will provide an overview of MoDOT Library's services such as literature search summaries, customized news alerts, how to access transportation and other information from your desktop as well as the benefits of library community partnerships such as transportation knowledge networks.



As part of the session, Sarah Irwin, Outreach and Training Librarian, from the State Library Reference Services Division, will share information about the State Library's unique services and resources.

The library has worked diligently to acquire and catalog many publications and journals, reference works and reports from other states for the MoDOT Library collection located at the State Library. The librarian also has access to many print and electronic sources of information.

The library is a valuable resource and Renée is happy to assist you with finding information you may need. 573-522-1948 Renee.McHenry@modot.mo.gov.

What's Happening at Central Office

www.modot.org | 800-392-0925

Benefits of Your Plan

This presentation provides general information about the State of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan, which offers all state employees the opportunity to save for retirement with both before and after tax (Roth) money. Whether you've been saving for years, or are just getting started, the Plan has the tools you need to help build a secure financial future.

If you would like to attend one of these sessions please enroll at [State of Missouri Online Scheduling](#). Pre-registration is not mandatory to attend any session.

Tuesday, April 23rd	Tuesday, April 23rd
State Information Center 600 W Main St Jefferson City, MO 11:00 am State Interpretive Center	State Information Center 600 W Main St Jefferson City, MO 1:30 pm State Interpretive Center



**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Mississippi Valley
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

**Missouri State
Capitol Building**

Wednesday, May 15, 2013
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Third Floor Rotunda

To Schedule a Donation, Please Contact (314) 291-4741 , 1-800-591-8049 or Go
Online to www.bloodcenterimpact.org. Use Sponsor Code: 10132

www.bloodcenter.org
Eat before donating • Bring photo ID

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Awareness and Remembrance: Work Zone Awareness Week

Every worker going home safe in the same condition in which they arrived at work. Every worker. Every day. That's the message the Northwest District has been spreading during National Work Zone Awareness Week. To help get the word out, there will be a Work Zone Awareness event at the District Office on April 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. The public is invited to get an up close look at some of our equipment, chat with workers, try on fatal vision goggles, ride the seatbelt convincer and visit with law enforcement. They can also get their child seats checked for proper installation, take photos with Barrel Bob, Barrel Betty and Baby Bob and take home materials to learn more about how they can keep our workers safe in work zones. Younger visitors can also go through safety town, courtesy of the St. Joseph Safety Council.

Not all of our workers in Northwest Missouri have gone home at the end of their work day. The Northwest District has lost 13 co-workers in the line of duty.

The following individuals gave their lives in service to the Northwest District and the state of Missouri. Their sacrifice will forever remain a treasured part of our memory.

Lloyd M. Land - June 19, 1956
Cleo Rhoad - February 18, 1958
Roy E. Murphy - January 5, 1965
Kenneth Hasbrouck - September 21, 1965
Claude Adkison - April 23, 1968
Donald Wyatt - October 6, 1969
Lawton Roberts - September 4, 1971
Clarence Ingels - June 21, 1973
Ivan Ramsey - August 9, 1974
Thomas Snuffer - September 13, 1976
Otis N. Stretch - February 15, 1978
Joseph Hughes - January 13, 1979
Wendal O'Neal - February 8, 1988



This bench and plaque at the Northwest District Office were presented in 1997. The plaque reads - Dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in service to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

On The Move Listening Sessions Finish Strong

The final two On The Move listening sessions were held in the Northwest District last week. The session in Maryville, held April 9 at the Maryville Parks & Recreation Center, was co-hosted by Nodaway County Economic Development Executive Director Lee Langerock. The St. Joseph session was held April 11 at Missouri Western State University and was co-hosted by University President Dr. Robert Vartabedian. More than 50 business leaders, community members, regional planning partners and others joined in the two sessions with some great conversations. Participants at each table were asked to discuss two different scenarios. In scenario one, funding stayed at current levels and restrictions on where the monies could be spent remained as they are today. In scenario two, funding increased by \$600 million and allocation restrictions were lifted.

Julie Lorenz, a consultant with Burns & McDonnell, has been working with On The Move and seen the results from all 15 listening sessions across the state, said, "we saved the best for last!" Discussions at the tables for both scenarios were lively and elicited comments ranging from public transportation funding to eliminating the term "farm to market roads" to cost-sharing between MoDOT and local communities. Updates from all Listening Sessions across the state can be found at <http://www.missourionthemove.org/news-updates/>.



Missouri Western State University President Dr. Vartabedian kicks off the St. Joseph listening session.



Participants from across Northwest Missouri participate in group discussions at the Maryville session.

Around the District



Safety Jackpot Winner Aaron Cartee (center) poses with I-r: Sr. Safety Officer Lee Bearce, District Maintenance & Traffic Engineer Marty Liles, District Safety & Health Manager Diane Sipes and Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy after winning \$1,375 in a Safety Jackpot drawing.



Area Engineer Mike Rinehart presents West Nodaway R-I High School with their Silver Banner in the Battle of the Belt Competition for achieving more than 95 percent seat belt usage.

For more info

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Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Rain or Shine...Don't Zone Out! Slow Down and Move Over for Work Zones

This is a dangerous time of year on the highways as work crews begin road construction and repair. Rain or shine, two lanes or four lanes, exits or bridges, MoDOT crews can be anywhere. Work Zone Awareness Week provides an opportunity to educate motorists about all types of work zones and the critical part motorists play in keeping everyone safe in highway work zones.

Drivers today are more distracted than ever, and with the construction and maintenance season starting, this week the Northeast District arranged the help of the local media and law enforcement to reinforce both messages...Slow Down and Move Over for Work Zones. Many drivers aren't focused or 'zoned out' while driving; they are talking, texting, or doing something else instead of the task at hand.

In the interview, Jim Whitfield with KHQA noted that as crews were on the Mark Twain Memorial Bridge cleaning the bridge deck and inspecting the structure, cars and trucks were going past the workers at between 45 and 65 miles an hour. One miscue and this stretch of a work zone could become a crash scene. That's why MoDOT is promoting safety for its workers and motorists.

"Safety is our number one issue, not just for the MoDOT employees, but for the traveling public. When we do work close to the center line and traffic goes by us 55 to 65 miles an hour, you've got to be aware of your surroundings. The traffic will hopefully look out for us and look out for each other," MoDOT Maintenance Supervisor Simon Begley said.

A few years ago, Danny Perry, who is a 14 year veteran with MoDOT, had a near-miss while he was working along US 61 south of Palmyra. He will remember it for a long time.

"So I looked in my rear view mirror and I saw a tractor trailer unit sideways on 61 with a roll of flat steel almost on its side and so I knew I needed to get out of the way. I veered to the right, went down in the median, and when I got straightened up, I looked in the mirror again and the roll of steel was chasing me down the median," Perry said.

MoDOT workers go about their duties while thousands of vehicles drive through their workplaces at high speeds, and it is critical for everyone's well-being to drive safely and pay attention. Highway works zones—especially those with narrow lanes or changing traffic patterns, leave little room for distractions and require attentive, cautious driving habits.



Jeff City Bridge Crew and Palmyra Maintenance Crews work on Mark Twain Memorial Bridge.



Pavement repairs restrict turn movement at US 36 eastbound exit ramp at Hannibal.

Saving A Loved One

On a cold December night while resting for snow removal, little did Robert Deters, maintenance crew leader at Canton, know his nap would be cut short by a life threatening family situation. Robert's wife and youngest son woke him up screaming for help...his year and a half old grandson, Raymond Smith, had quit breathing while sleeping.

"I know what it means now when you hear the expression 'blue baby'. Raymond was not breathing and had turned really blue, and was unresponsive. My wife and son were frantic and didn't have their wits about them to know what to do," Deters said.



Robert Deters, Canton maintenance, is pictured above holding his grandson Raymond Smith. Robert performed life saving CPR on Raymond one evening when he quit breathing.

Robert immediately began CPR while his wife called 911. By the time the paramedics arrived Raymond had started breathing and his color was back, he was still unconscious but later regained consciousness while on the way to the hospital. The doctor said they are assuming Raymond had quit breathing and had a seizure due to the spike in his fever from pneumonia.

"The paramedics told us my grandson's results wouldn't have come out as good if someone had not administered CPR," added Robert. "My training saved my grandson's life. I am very thankful I had the CPR training and grateful to MoDOT for offering it," explained Robert.

Boulder Down

Heavy storms on April 10 caused some rocks to give way on MO 79 just south of Hannibal. The Ralls County Sheriff's department was called by motorists to the scene where a deputy stopped traffic until the large rock and debris were removed from the travel lanes. Continental Cement had already pushed the rock off of the roadway by the time MoDOT arrived.



A huge rock was pushed off of MO 79 south of Hannibal in Marion County. Due to heavy rains the evening before, the rock slid from the bluff onto the roadway.



On April 12, crews brought in a crane for a controlled fall of an additional unstable boulder on the bluff.

Around the District...



The Northeast District has begun On The Move mobile tours. Pictured is Tom Batenhorst, district planning manager, at the first mobile tour at the Picadilly Convenience Store in Center. Several more mobile tours are planned around the district in the upcoming weeks.



In preparation for construction this summer, Chris Brownell, senior construction inspector at the Hannibal Project Office, is removing bird nests from the 78-year-old Little Calumet Creek Bridge on MO 79 in Pike County to comply with the migratory bird migration requirements. The bridge on MO 79 between Louisiana and Clarksville will be replaced with a new 32-foot wide concrete girder bridge with shoulders to accommodate bicyclists.

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Fallen Workers' Family Members, Director Nichols Advocate for Work Zone Awareness

by Steve Porter

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols was joined by family members of fallen MoDOT workers Clifton Scott, Michael York and Julie Love on Friday, April 12, to remind motorists that we all want to make it home safely at the end of the day to be with those we love.

Director Nichols spoke at the news conference to announce Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19. This year's theme, 'Don't Zone Out in Work Zones,' urges motorists to pay attention and watch for work zones, which can be anywhere on the highway. Many work zones are moving operations, such as mowing, striping or pavement repairs. Sometimes the work zones can be emergency situations, where MoDOT is removing debris from the highway or assisting at a vehicle crash.

Director Nichols introduced a 30-second public service announcement featuring an interview several years ago with Clifton Scott, who urged motorists to slow down and pay attention in work zones so that everyone can make it home safe each night. Unfortunately, Motorist Assist Operator Clifton Scott did not make it home safe on September 21, 2012. He was killed on I-70 in Independence after setting up traffic control near a collision. Click [HERE](#) to view the PSA or visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSO5AONz8CE&feature=youtu.be.

Scott's sister, Xavier Estell, and his fiancé, Monique Banks, joined Sammy Love, husband of Julie Love, and Amanda Spohr, daughter of Michael York, to honor their family members at the MoDOT Kansas City District monument to the district's fallen workers.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Sergeant Collin Stosberg spoke to honor Trooper Mike Newton, killed several years ago when his patrol car was struck while he was on the roadside of I-70. Stosberg urged motorists to move over, both for emergency vehicles and for highway equipment, and to avoid distracted driving.

To learn more about work zone safety visit www.modot.org/workzones/index.htm.



Xavier Estell, sister of Clifton Scott, Monique Banks, his fiancé, Amanda Spohr, daughter of Michael York, and Sam Love, husband of Julie Love, join MoDOT District Engineer Dan Niec, Sgt. Collin Stosberg of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and MoDOT Director Dave Nichols at a news conference to remind motorists that next week is Work Zone Awareness Week. Photo: Steve Porter



Family members of fallen MoDOT workers Clifton Scott, Michael York and Julie Love console each other as the public service announcement featuring Clifton Scott runs on a monitor behind them. Photo: Steve Porter

For more info

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News Event Kicks Off Work Zone Awareness Week

Spring marks the beginning of the busy highway maintenance and construction season. With that comes the annual plea from the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Missouri State Highway Patrol for motorists to drive safely in highway work zones.

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols joined Dave Silvester, Central District Engineer; Major Dale Schmidt of the Missouri State Highway Patrol; and Kent Cunningham, Columbia maintenance crew leader, at a news conference to raise awareness for work zone safety and remember the MoDOT employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The event was held Monday at the Columbia maintenance facility.

Director Nichols paid tribute to Clifton Scott, the Kansas City Motorist Assist Operator who was struck and killed last September while working an accident on Interstate 70 near Independence. He also thanked the Missouri Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies for their support in enforcing the laws that govern work zones.



MoDOT Director Dave Nichols shared the important message of work zone safety at a news conference held April 15 at the Columbia maintenance facility. Joining him were Major Dale Schmidt of the Missouri State Highway Patrol; Kent Cunningham, Columbia maintenance crew leader; Barrel Bob and Dave Silvester, Central District Engineer.



Central District Right of Way employees showed their true colors by wearing orange to promote work zone safety on Work Zone Awareness Wednesday. Pictured from left are Beth Oliver, Brenda Aholt, Karl Davenport, Stacy Summa and Mary Rackers.

inches."

Cunningham said he feels lucky to be alive today. "A few more inches and my story might have been different," he said.

Silvester reminded motorists that work zones come in all shapes and sizes. "In addition to the work zones we set up when we're performing highway maintenance and building projects, work zones can be moving operations, such as mowing or striping," Silvester said. "Work zones can be established after a highway crash or incident, or they can be short-term, temporary lane closures to make a quick repair or remove debris."

Cunningham encouraged motorists to "pay attention to your surroundings and turn off your electronic devices" when driving through work zones. He recalled a recent incident when he was setting up an emergency work zone at the Route 63/I-70 connector.

"I heard a pop, and when I looked up I saw a motorist whose tire had blown heading straight for me," Cunningham said. "The driver had been driving too fast for the conditions and missed me by just a few

Central District Takes Home Three Awards in Innovations Challenge

The Central District was well represented when the Tool and Equipment Challenge met the new ProMo Innovation Challenge at the annual Innovations Showcase held last week in Springfield.

The shared four-lane project built in Camden and Laclede counties was one of three statewide winners in the ProMo Innovation Challenge. The project, the first of its kind in the state that was designed and constructed on new alignment, was recognized for its innovative approach to traffic control and safety.

Team members on the project included Nicole Hood, Trent Brooks, Steve Englebrecht, Patty Lemongelli, Randy Potts, Josh Kincaid, Troy Hughes, Llans Taylor, Anousone Arounpradith, Melissa Scheperle and Bob Lynch.

A limb saw that can reach higher than hand-held saws also was a statewide winner in the ProMo Innovation Challenge. Karl Desch and Ron Laney, Salem Maintenance, retrofitted a limb saw to a backhoe in a move to do away with manually operated limb saws.

An ACS herbicide sprayer captured Best of Show in the Tool and Equipment Challenge. This innovation, created by Justin Sundell, Salem Maintenance, is a herbicide sprayer that uses the ACS hydraulic systems on newer department dump trucks. The sprayer eliminates the need for high-cost injection sprayers, and the large tank results in less downtime loading and mixing.

Click on the links below to get additional information on these award-winning innovations.

- [Shared Four-Lane Project](#)
- [Limb Saw](#)
- [ACS Herbicide Sprayer](#)



Central District employees (from left to right) Bob Lynch, Nicole Hood and Randy Potts share information about the district's shared four-lane project at the annual Innovations Showcase held last week in Springfield. In the background, Ryan Libbert displays a new procedure he helped develop for signing plans that led to a significant reduction in the time that was once spent on this task.

District Happenings



Fayette Maintenance Crew Leader Larry Koenig is the latest grab bag winner in the Safety Jackpot. Larry's name was drawn from the nationwide database for the quarterly drawing. He is only the second employee to be picked as part of the national drawing. Larry's take: \$1,000! Congratulations, Larry! That will buy a lot of doughnuts!



The last of the district's spring meetings was held Tuesday in Lebanon. The year's snow fight efforts were discussed, along with staffing, safety, equipment needs and the budget.

The district recently received its On the Move van, which has already taken to the road to gather input from Missourians on their views for the



future of transportation in Missouri. For more information about the mobile tour component of the On the Move initiative visit www.missourionthemove.org.



Striping crews began striping roadways across mid-Missouri the week of April 8. The crews will work 10 hours a day, seven days a week to lay down the yellow and white stripes before Memorial Day, the first holiday travel weekend of the summer season. Motorists will encounter slow-moving lines of trucks with flashing lights, boards with flashing arrows and signs that say "Wet Paint." "Drivers need to be especially alert and careful as these moving work zones begin around mid-Missouri," said Central District Engineer David Silvester. "We want our crews, as well as all motorists, to make it home safely." In the photo at left, the stripers gas up before hitting the road.

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Missouri, Illinois Stress Driver Attention in Work Zones

by Andrew Gates

During spring, on Missouri and Illinois roadways, April showers means work zones start popping up. Whether for construction or a slow moving operation to patch potholes or put a fresh coat of paint on roadway stripes, drivers can expect to see more work zones on the roadways starting this month.

The Missouri and Illinois Departments of Transportation, Illinois and Missouri law enforcement representatives and local construction partners partnered together early this week in their annual news conference to kick off activities in St. Louis for National Work Zone Safety Week, April 15-19. It was held Monday, April 15 at the Tower Grove project, on Newstead Road south of I-64, focusing on this year's theme "We're All in This Together."

Last year, more than 500 vehicles were involved in Missouri work zone crashes in the St. Louis area. Four people died and 13 were disabled due to work zone crashes in 2012.

"MoDOT makes every effort to ensure our work zones are clearly marked and that we let drivers know they are approaching construction on the road ahead," said Ed Hassinger, MoDOT St. Louis district engineer. "People should remember that it is now the law to move over or slow down when they see MoDOT or emergency vehicles with flashing lights on the roadway."



Len Toenjes, Association of General Contractors of St. Louis, provides a visual reinforcement on behalf of all construction workers wanting drivers to slow down when traveling through work zones.

Both IDOT and MoDOT use many avenues to get information to drivers about upcoming work on roadways. Drivers can get regional information on-line for Illinois construction at <http://www.stl-traffic.org/> and for Missouri construction at <http://www.modot.org/>

Overhead and roadside electronic boards warn drivers of upcoming work zones. Signs let drivers know they are entering a work zone and the safe speeds for traveling through the upcoming construction.

Hassinger added, "We are working to make sure the drivers stay safe. We ask those drivers to pay attention to their surroundings, slow down or move over for flashing lights, and eliminate distractions when driving through construction, so our team stays safe. In a work zone, many lives are on the line."

"Our priority is to reduce the number and severity of crashes and save lives on Illinois roadways," said IDOT Acting Region 5 Engineer Jeff Keirn. "We want to remind motorists of the law banning the use of cell phones in work zones, to always drive the posted speed limit and to slow down and move over when approaching emergency, construction and maintenance vehicles."

Check out videos on St. Louis employee testimonials who were struck in work zones while operating a truck mounted attenuator:



Bobbie: <http://youtu.be/wM9Tch8X4ro>

Daryl: <http://youtu.be/WXjODdwO25g>

Josie Beard asks drivers to slow down in work zones. Josie is the wife of deceased Laborer's Local 100 worker, Dennis Beard, who was killed May 22, 2012 inside a construction work zone in Illinois on I-64.

St. Louis Core Vice Holder is Winner in Tool and Equipment Innovations Showcase

by Kara Price

Congratulations St. Louis district on winning one of the four statewide categories in the 2012-2013 Innovations Challenge! St. Louis was awarded \$10,000 at the statewide competition held in Springfield this past week. This award money can be used for its upcoming maintenance priorities.

The statewide individual winner, David Ziegler, construction inspector for the North County area team, received \$425 for his innovative core vice holder. This innovation is constructed of scrap metal pieces less than 16 inches long with one drill press vice clamp, scrap metal and welding materials. It simplifies the process of saw cutting using a modified drill press vice clamp to hold asphalt core samples in place while cutting to proper size for materials lab testing.



St. Louis won a statewide \$10,000 award at the statewide Innovations Challenge competition this month. The money will be used for the district's upcoming maintenance priorities. Pictured left to right: MoDOT Director Dave Nichols, statewide winner David Ziegler and Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Lloyd Carmichael.

The greatest benefit of this winning solution is one employee can cut core samples with reduced risk of injury to hands and fingers. It secures the core sample for an accurate cut eliminating the possibility of the sample being thrown from the saw blade. This also keeps the operator's hands at a safer distance from the saw blade. The total cost of the core vice holder is approximately \$15 with 2 1/2 hours of labor to construct it.

With the core vice holder being a winner in the statewide competition, this innovative solution will be implemented at MoDOT statewide. It will improve safety and efficiency by reducing injuries by keeping employees' hands away from the saw blade when cutting the core. It will also reduce cost for materials and save money since the vice can be used at maintenance buildings with existing equipment.

Another congratulations goes to the St. Louis district winners whose entries were selected to compete in the statewide Innovations Showcase in Springfield for the Tool and Equipment Challenge and ProMo Challenge.

"We had several creative innovative entries this year that made a tough job for the judges to decide on the winners," said Judy Wagner, St. Louis Leader for the Innovations Challenge. "We had 26 entries for the Tool and Equipment Challenge and could only submit six to the statewide challenge."

She added, "We had 38 entries for the PrOMo Challenge and could only submit six to the statewide challenge. The entries that were not selected will be entered into the Solutions at Work program."

Congratulations to all innovative St. Louis employees!

Top Five 2013 Work Zones in St. Louis

by Andrew Gates

With the start of spring, MoDOT St. Louis has many construction projects in full swing for 2013. Because of the potential impact, drivers should be aware of the top five projects in the region for this year:

- I-70 at the Blanchette Bridge - crews continue to rebuild a new bridge on westbound I-70 across the Missouri river. Traffic lanes have been narrowed and shifted onto three lanes in each direction across the river. The bridge replacement project is scheduled to be completed by November 2013.
- I-270 between Dougherty Ferry and I-44 - Crews will be constructing a fifth southbound lane on I-270 this summer. The exiting lanes have been narrowed and shifted to construct the new lane, and barrier installed on the interstate. Drivers can expect three weeks of short term daytime interstate closures in April to blast alongside the interstate. Construction will be complete in late 2013.
- I-64 at Tower Grove and Jefferson - Crews are working on replacing bridges and adding new ramps on I-64 between Tower Grove and Kingshighway. In addition, work starts later this week on the Jefferson Avenue bridge over the interstate. Several weekend interstate closures and daily lane closures and shifts are scheduled for this on-going work. The Jefferson Bridge project will be complete in mid-July. The Tower Grove project will continue until mid-2014.
- Missouri Interchange work at the new Mississippi River Bridge- Crews are building the ramps and roadway needed to connect the new Mississippi River Bridge to Tucker and Cass in St. Louis City and to I-70 in Missouri. Drivers should expect off-peak lane closures and may have some full short-term interstate closures as crews construct bridges over the interstate. The interchange project will be completed in fall 2013. The Mississippi River Bridge opens to traffic in early 2014.
- Route 100 in Franklin County widening - Crews have started work to widen Route 100 to four lanes in Washington between Route 47 and High Street. In addition, they will make several other improvements to the roadway to help traffic flow. Drivers can expect lane shifts and closures during the work. The project is scheduled to be complete in fall 2013.



Construction is ongoing to build the Missouri Interchange which connects the new Mississippi River Bridge to St. Louis City.

For more info

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MoDOT-Police-Public Partnership Crucial to Work Zone Safety

by Bob Edwards

The Southwest District spotlighted Work Zone Awareness Week in news media briefings Monday in Springfield and Joplin, asking the public to be a safety partner by driving attentively through stationary work zones and to be alert for striping and other slow-moving operations.

Beyond this week's call for safe driving in work zones, the district plans to focus public attention on specific work zones through the rest of 2013 when major changes occur that will impact traffic.

District Engineer Becky Baltz said it is important for drivers to slow down when coming up quickly behind a slow-moving striping caravan. She spoke to reporters near the Kansas Expressway (Route 13)/James River Freeway (Route 60) interchange reconstruction project.



Millsap, Villanueva, Baltz (Photo by Angela Eden)

Excerpts from Springfield Media Briefing (Video)

District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell, speaking to reporters near the I-44/Range Line Road interchange reconstruction work in Joplin, urged people to pay attention and "stay engaged" while driving.

Baltz and Campbell both said the key to safe work zones is a three-way partnership. MoDOT pledges to set work zones that make sense. Law enforcement agencies plan to enforce work zone speed limits and other restrictions. The public must do its part by slowing down and avoiding distractions while negotiating work zones, stationary or moving.

With that kind of cooperation, they said, MoDOT and contractor workers can get home safely and travelers can safely reach their destinations.

Southwest District Construction, Maintenance and Incident Response workers joined in the media briefing along with representatives of law enforcement agencies -- Troop D Highway Patrol Capt. Juan Villanueva and Springfield Police Capt. David Millsap in Springfield and Troop D Highway Patrol Lt. Dan Bracker and Joplin Police Sgt. Rusty Rives in Joplin.

A damaged truck-mounted attenuator (or protective shock absorber) that had been hit at the rear of a striping operation was displayed at each briefing to show what can happen when drivers fail to slow down behind a moving operation.

"We're going to be out in force ... making sure that all the people are obeying the laws and that highway construction workers are safe," Villanueva said.

Millsap said Springfield officers will target work zones for enforcement efforts. "These are unforgiving zones. If you speed through those or you're driving recklessly ... you're going to get a ticket."

Everyone in Missouri wants a solid infrastructure, including roads, said Rives of the Joplin Police Department. "Our goal is to make sure we get the job done safely."

Partnering with the public also involves MoDOT's pledge to listen to concerns about work zones from people who submit Rate Our Work Zone surveys through the MoDOT web site, Baltz and Campbell said.

"Let us know," Campbell said. "We will make changes where appropriate."

After Monday's news briefings, MoDOT personnel talked to people at several businesses near the two projects and had drivers fill out Rate Our Work Zone surveys.



FLUSHING BRIDGES: Spraying salt residue and debris from the Route 65 bridge over the Finley River at Ozark (top left photo) is Ozark Senior Maintenance Worker Lee Long. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

RATE OUR WORK ZONE: Interviewing a driver in a Joplin coffee shop (top right photo), District Construction and Maintenance Engineer Steve Campbell fills out a Rate Our Work Zone survey for the I-44/Range Line Road reconstruction project. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

TIME-SAVER: At MoDOT's statewide Innovations Showcase in Springfield (photo on left), Butler Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Judy Shrum discusses a wheeled tape applicator used to quickly put down temporary center-line stripes on asphalt patches. The device was entered in the Tool and Equipment Challenge. (Photo by Angela Eden)



SW District Inventions Win State Honors

by Angela Eden

A chloride injection system mounted on a salt spreader and an online ordering system for supplies, both developed by Southwest District workers, were among inventions that won awards at MoDOT's Innovations Showcase.

The annual statewide event was held April 9-10 in Springfield.

* Nevada Maintenance developed the calcium chloride injection system. The liquid chloride, or other chemicals such as "beet juice," can be pumped from its tank at the shop through a PVC pipe extended to the top of the spreader. The chemical then is sprayed on the salt before the truck leaves the shop.

The old way of climbing up and manually filling saddle tanks (so the chemical could be sprayed on the salt as it was spread onto the road) took about 15 minutes to accomplish, Northwest Area Maintenance Superintendent Travis Jones said.

"This (injection) system takes a minute" to treat an entire load of salt, Jones said. That means a truck gets back on the road quicker, which is a great benefit in the midst of a snowstorm.

The system also keeps a crew member from having to mount a ladder or catwalk to flush and clean out a spreader after a winter storm.

The injection system was one of four statewide winners in the Tool and Equipment Challenge.

* Senior General Services Specialist Janet Doty said the web-based online ordering system allows field employees to order the supplies they need and only what they need. It saves time for field employees as well as for General Services staff. Inventory is controlled better at less cost and provides more opportunities for quantity purchasing discounts.

"All orders are consolidated. We don't have to have all the merchandise on the shelf," Doty said.

The online ordering system, one of four statewide winners in the ProMo Challenge, was developed by Doty and Senior General Services Technician Marsha Tarrant. It is being adopted for use statewide within MoDOT.



Marsha Tarrant, left, and Janet Doty (Photo by Angela Eden)



PVC pipe carries liquid chemicals to top of salt spreader. (Photo by Alan Hooper)

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SE District Focuses on Safety

Safety is the most important aspect of every job we do at MoDOT. District Engineer Mark Shelton recently updated employees on the importance of safety during his latest edition of The Scoop and reminded employees that safety will be a topic for discussion at the spring employee meetings.

"While we must remain safe with each job, this year we will focus on the safety aspects of our moving operations," said Shelton. "We have a tremendous amount of work to complete this summer, so take time out of each day to talk about safety."

In addition to safety, SE District employees will be updated on a number of statewide initiatives. Shelton encouraged employees to attend one of the following SE District Spring Employee Meetings (All meetings will begin at 10 a.m.):

- Monday, April 22 – Jackson Maintenance Facility
- Tuesday, April 23 – Kewanee Maintenance Facility
- Wednesday, April 24 – Southeast District Office
- Monday, April 29 – Van Buren Maintenance Facility
- Thursday, May 2 – Malden Maintenance Facility
- Monday, May 6 – West Plains Maintenance Facility
- Tuesday, May 7 – Hartville Maintenance Facility
- Monday, May 13 – Park Hills Maintenance Facility
- Tuesday, May 14 – Willow Springs Regional Office

Employees are also encouraged to ask questions prior to the employee meetings, so that information may be shared district-wide. Employees wishing to ask questions may do so by:

- Contacting Mark Shelton directly at 573.472.5341 or 573.837.6171
- Contacting the SE EAEC at 573.472.9090
- Emailing the SE EAEC (current employees may use this link to access the form)



Check out The Scoop at <http://youtu.be/iRkrVPQNcwQ>.

2013 No MOre Trash! Bash Underway

Houston Lions Club Shows Their Support



Members of the Houston Lions Club recently pitched in to help keep Missouri's communities free of litter. The volunteer group picked up 18 bags of litter on a one mile stretch of Route 63, located south of Houston. Pictured: Dawn Smith, Nicole Shelhammer and Miles James, with volunteer helper Leila Shelhammer.

With the 2013 No MOre Trash Bash well underway, the Houston Lions Club recently showed their support for this effort by cleaning up their adopted section of Route 63.

"The Bash is a volunteer effort to help cleanup Missouri and work toward a litter-free state," said Mark Aufdenberg, MoDOT Southeast District roadside manager. "Picking up litter is a great way to make a difference in the appearance of the state, as well as take care of the environment."

In 2012, thousands of Missouri volunteers picked up more than 128,000 bags of trash and many also attended educational events throughout the month of April. The 2012 Bash was one of the most successful ever, but you can help make the 2013 Bash even better.

Aufdenberg wants to thank the Houston Lions Club and others who are dedicated to cleaning up communities and public spaces.

If you would like to participate in the No MOre Trash Bash, please go to www.nomoretrash.org or contact Aufdenberg at

(573) 380-4579. To get involved in MoDOT's year-long effort by adopting a section of highway, please visit www.modot.org/services/community/adoptahighway.htm.

SE District Celebrates Work Zone Awareness Week

April 15-19



Please visit <http://youtu.be/Zyh11kEIr4> to view the Work Zone Awareness PSA.

Although safety is a top priority throughout the entire year, the Southeast District makes a more concentrated effort during National Work Zone Awareness Week each April—before the start of the construction/maintenance season.

This year, the Southeast District has planned interactive activities to emphasize the importance of work zone safety. The celebration should serve as a reminder to employees and help inform motorists.

As part of the activities, the Southeast District is asking safety trivia questions throughout the week on its social media accounts. In addition, an orange issue of MoDOT in Motion, the district's quarterly newsletter, was sent out within the 25-county region. This issue of MoDOT in Motion focuses on work zone safety and also provides an update on upcoming construction projects and traffic impacts. To view the issue of MoDOT in Motion online, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/MoDOTinMotion.htm.

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